

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A wale for use in bracing a retaining wall, said wale comprising:

a back wall;

a front wall having a channel formed therein; and

a plurality of connecting walls connecting said back and front walls to form at least one chamber between said back wall and said front wall;

and wherein said channel has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to said retaining wall by a tieback rod passing through said wale and a fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel.

2. (Original) The wale of claim 1 wherein said wale is of a unitary construction and said plurality of connecting walls includes a top wall and a bottom wall, and wherein a single chamber is formed between said back wall and said front wall.

3. (Original) The wale of claim 1 wherein said wale is of a unitary construction and said plurality of connecting walls includes a top wall, an upper reinforcing wall, a lower reinforcing wall, and a bottom wall, and wherein a plurality of chambers are formed between said back wall and said front wall.

4. (Original) The wale of claim 1 wherein said wale further comprises a pultruded composite material.

5. (Original) The wale of claim 4 wherein said composite material is fiberglass reinforced plastic resin impregnated composite.

6. (Currently Amended) A retaining wall wale, comprising:

a back wall

a front wall having a top portion and a bottom portion interconnected by a C-shaped channel portion;

a top wall connecting said back wall to said top portion; and

a bottom wall connecting said back wall to said bottom portion to form a chamber between said back wall and said front wall;

and wherein said channel portion has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to a retaining wall by a tieback rod passing through the said wale and a fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel portion.

7. (Original) The wale of claim 6 further comprising:

an upper reinforcing wall and a lower reinforcing wall each connecting said back wall to at least one of said top portion, said C-shaped channel portion, and said bottom portion such that a plurality of chambers are formed between said back wall and said front wall.

8. - 27. (Canceled)

28. (New) A wale for use in bracing a retaining wall, said wale comprising:

a back wall having a first opening therein and operable for receiving a tieback rod therethrough;

a front wall having a channel formed therein and having a second opening therein and operable for receiving the tieback rod therethrough;

a plurality of connecting walls connecting said back and front walls to form at least one chamber between said back wall and said front wall.

29. (New) The wale of Claim 28 wherein said channel has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to a retaining wall by a tieback rod and a fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel.

30. (New) The wale of claim 28 wherein said wale is of a unitary construction and said plurality of connecting walls includes a top wall, an upper reinforcing wall, a lower reinforcing wall, and a bottom wall, and wherein a plurality of chambers are formed between said back wall and said front wall.

31. (New) The wale of claim 28 wherein said wale further comprises a pultruded composite material.

32. (New) The wale of claim 31 wherein said composite material is fiberglass reinforced plastic resin impregnated composite.